

**July 10, 2016, 6:13 am**

What a long but wonderful first day we had in Belize. After having a chance to settle into our hotel, we were off to Port Loyola Baptist Church to prepare for a community cookout. Our brothers and sisters had already passed out hundreds of tickets for a plate of free BBQ chicken and fixins, but they wanted to canvas the neighborhood one more time. So we had a parade: a real, loud, laughter filled parade-complete with drum line, dancers, baton twirlers, and dozens of people passing out tickets to the BBQ. As we walked, our numbers grew; folks just wanted to join in the fun! Children were laughing and singing and climbing all over our team. The weather was incredibly cooperative: a forecast of 80% chance of rain was instead comfortable cloud cover with maybe 5 minutes of rain all told. Truthfully, it wasn't even as hot as it has been back home! The cookout was a success, as 500 meals were given away to members of the community! Our hope is that this creates a positive connection point for people with PLBC. We pray that the community will come to see and know the love of Christ through the actions of his people.

Afterwards, we had some further orientation with our Praying Pelicans staff. They are **Mark, Katie, Jonathan, and Kenny**. Would you pray for these four as they help lead and guide us this week?

After orientation, I shared with our group a request from Mark and Pastor Ian Gillett of PLBC. They wanted a handful of our team to share their testimonies in the church service this morning. I asked for volunteers-who would be willing to step out of their comfort zone and speak in front of many people about how God has changed their life?. **Robert Hogue, Justin Owen, and Lauren Groseclose** will be sharing in front of the entire church in a few short hours. Pray for them!

In addition, I was asked if we had anyone who would be willing to share a few words with the church this morning. I'd anticipated this, and was prepared to do so myself. What I was not prepared for was being asked to preach...like the whole sermon. Preferably around 25 or 30 minutes they said. Sooooo it was a late night of sermon preparation for me, complete with PowerPoint outline. Would you pray for me friends? What an INCREDIBLE opportunity to be able to stand and proclaim the unfailing love of Jesus from the pulpit. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in God's sight.

Continue to lift us all up in prayer! After church today we are going to be able to visit a local orphanage to share love with those for whom it has perhaps been in short supply. Then it's time to prep prep prep for our week of VBS and construction (which seems like it could be a little tricky-but more on that later, hopefully with pictures).

Blessings! - Kevin